

Message Text

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12
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 200930Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR PORG MY
SUBJ: MALAYSIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF NAM SUMMIT -- AUGUST 20

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 4792

1. SUMMARY. MALAYSIAN PRESS AUGUST 20 REPORTED RETURN FROM
COLOMBO PREVIOUS DAY OF PRIME MINISTER DATUK HUSSEIN AND HIS
CRITICAL REMARKS REGARDING USE OF NAC SUMMIT TO PROPAGATE
PARTICULAR IDEOLOGIES. AN AFTERNOON REPORT, TELEPHONED FROM
COLOMBO, INDICATES FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDDEEN WAS UNSUCCESSFUL
IN GETTING MALAYSIAN LANGUAGE ON KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION INTO
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CONFERENCE POLITICAL DECLARATION BECAUSE OF OPPOSITION FROM

SRV. END SUMMARY.

2. GOVERNMENT NEWS AGENCY BERNAMA REPORTED THAT PRIME MINISTER DATUK HUSSEIN ONN, ON HIS RETURN FROM COLOMBO AUG 19, SAID THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE NAM TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE TO PROPAGATE THEIR IDEOLOGIES. HE SAID THAT THE MEMBERS CONCERNED ALSO USED THE CONFERENCE "TO PERSUADE OTHERS TO CONDEMN, AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY, A PARTICULARLY COUNTRY FOR ALL THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS." HUSSEIN FELT THIS WAS "MOST UNHEALTHY" AND WAS AT VARIANCE WITH THE CONCEPT OF NON-ALIGNMENT. "UNLESS THIS TREND IS CHECKED, I FEAR THE MOVEMENT WILL FALL INTO DISREPUTE EVEN IN THE EYES OF THE MEMBERS THEMSELVES," SAID HUSSEIN. HE NOTED THAT IN VIEW OF THE MANY MATTERS WHICH WERE BROUGHT BEFORE THE CONFERENCE, INCLUDING THOSE OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE, IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR THE SUMMIT TO CONCENTRATE ON PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE MOVEMENT AS A WHOLE. HUSSEIN SAID HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT MALAYSIA'S PROPOSAL FOR A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY (ZPFN) WOULD NOT ENCOUNTER ANY PROBLEMS IN THE CONFERENCE'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE. HUSSEIN SAID THAT MALAYSIA HAD CONCENTRATED ONLY ON TWO ISSUES AT THE SUMMIT, THE ZPFN AND THE UNCTAD-PROPOSED COMMON FUND TO FINANCE COMMODITY BUFFER STOCKS. BERNAMA REPORTED THAT HUSSEIN HAD MET WITH SADAT, QADHAFI, GANDHI, BANDARANAIKE, PDRK PRIME MINISTER PARK SUNG-CHUL, CAMBODIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IENG SARI AND SRV PRIME MINISTER PHAN VAN DONG.

3. THE BERNAMA REPORT FROM COLOMBO INDICATED THAT IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE FOREIGN MINISTER TENGKU DATUK AHMAD RITHAUDDEEN HAD CATEGORICALLY REJECTED THE CLAIM BY LAOS THAT THE KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION ON THE ZPFN WAS AN INSTRUMENT OF WAR. RITHAUDDEEN ALSO WAS REPORTED AS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE MALAYSIAN PROPOSAL THAT THE KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION BE REAFFIRMED BY THE COLOMBO CNFERENCE WOULD BE ADOPTED. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, MALAYSIA REGARDS THE LAOTIAN PROPOSAL ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AS A SEPARATE ISSUE FROM REAFFIRMATION OF THE ZPFN AND SHOULD THEREFORE BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY RATHER THAN IN PLACE OF THE MALAYSIAN PROPOSAL.

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4. AFTERNOON "MALAY MAIL" CARRIES TELEPHONED STORY FROM CHEONG MEI SUI IN COLONBO REPORTING THAT WHEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MET AT 9:30 P.M. LAST NIGHT TO CLEAR UP CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS FOR ENDORSEMENT BY THE HEADS OF GOVT, POLITICAL COMMITTEE HAD NOT REACHED DECISION ON CONFLICT BETWEEN ASEAN AND LAOTIAN STATEMENTS OR ON A FINAL TEXT FOR A POLITICAL DECLARATION, THEREFORE MATTER REFERRED TO FONMINS. SRV'S NGUYEN DUY TRINH "SUDDENLY" TOOK FLOOR AND STATED THAT

KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION WAS CONTRARY TO NON-ALIGNED PRINCIPLES; THEREFORE, SRV SUPPORTED LAOTIAN LANGUAGE AND OPPOSED INCLUSION OF K.L. DECLARATION IN POLITICAL DECLARATION OF THE CONFERENCE. GOM FONMIN TENGKU RITHAUDDEEN REPORTEDLY SOUGHT TO MAKE AN IMMEDIATE REBUTTAL BUT CHAIRMAN FELIX BANDARANAIKE RECOGNIZED SIERRA LEONE DELEGATE WHO SPOKE ON DIFFERENT TOPIC AND MAURITANIA GOT THE FLOOR NEXT BEFORE RITHAUDDEEN FINALLY PERMITTED TO SPEAK. WHEN MALAYSIAN TRIED TO REITERATE POINTS MADE IN PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN'S SPEECH OF AUGUST 18 IN WHICH ZPFN PROPOSAL EXPLAINED, BANDARANAIKE RULED MALAYSIAN RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY CLAPPING IN THE HALL AND RITHAUDDEEN WAS, IN EFFECT, FORCED TO SIT DOWN.

5. COMMENT: MALAYSIANS HAVE BEEN FRUSTRATED AT OTHER NAC SUMMITS WHEN TRYING TO PUT FORWARD THEIR VIEWS BUT NEVER IN REGARD TO AN ISSUE SO CLOSE TO THEIR HEARTS. DATUK HUSSEIN ONN IS A STRAIGHT FORWARD MAN WHO DOES NOT LIKE POLITICAL PRESSURE PLAYS. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW THE GOVERNMENT RATIONALIZES FAILURE TO SECURE ONE OF ITS TWO MAIN OBJECTIVES AT THE SUMMIT AND WHAT SRV INTRANSIGENCE WILL MEAN TO THE RECENT WARMING OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. UNDERHILL

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